

(b) if so, the terms of the collaboration; and

(c) what is the annual yield of opium and poppy during 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 and the estimate for the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) and (b) Under the agreement signed between India and the US in June, 2000, the US Government has offered a project assistance of US \$ 70,000 for conducting a Joint Licit Opium Poppy Survey (JLOPS) to develop a methodology for estimating opium gum yield. The life of the project is planned to be approximately 18 months or two opium poppy growing seasons. The aim of the study is to develop an accurate estimate of potential licit opium yield in the country.

(c) Annual yields of opium during 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 at 70 C have been 334 MT, 1382 MT and 1674 MT (Provisional) respectively. The crop for the year 2000-2001 is still to be sown.

Funds for improving the yield of cotton

3298. SHRI K. C. KONDAIAH: Will the Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total amount proposed to be spent towards improving the yield of cotton in the country; and

(b) the amount which has to be provided to Karnataka to double the yield of cotton during 2000- 2001?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) An amount of Rs.5326.58 lakhs has been allocated as Central Share for the current financial year, namely 2000-2001 for improving the yield of cotton in the country.

(b) The amount allocated to be State Government of Karnataka for the current year is Rs.466.59 lakhs.

Use of atomic energy for peaceful purpose

3299. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what are the areas where atomic energy has been used for peaceful purpose in the country so far;

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(b) whether Government have contemplated new areas to use the atomic energy; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) The areas where atomic energy has been used for peaceful purposes, are

(i) Generating nuclear power

(ii) In the fields of Industry, Medicine and Agriculture.

(b) The research & Development effort in identifying newer applications of atomic energy for peaceful uses, is an ongoing process. Some of the new areas in which the department is working are:

(i) Setting up of Electron Beam Centre at Kharghar (Navi Mumbai) to develop Polymer formations.

(ii) A Nuclear Desalination Demonstration Plant at Kalpakkam (Tamil Nadu) to demonstrate the feasibility, safety and economic viability of coupling it with the nuclear reactor for providing potable water.

(iii) Significant development has been made in the field of intricate and complex inspection and gauging systems for the Indian Oil Corporation's cross-country oil pipelines. A prototype has been developed and is undergoing field trials.

(iv) Setting up of a prototype "Poton Irradiator" at Lasalgaon near Nasik to demonstrate the feasibility of increasing the shelf life of potatoes and onions on a commercial scale.

Testing of Hydrogen and Neutron Bombs

3300. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

SHRI SURESH KALMADI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are in possession with sufficient data generated by the 1998 nuclear tests at Pokhran to protect India's security interests and for signing the CTBT:

(b) if not, whether Government propose to test more hydrogen and neutron bombs before signing the CTBT; and